

The definition of Hazardous Material is wide ranging from common household bleach to weapon systems. The requirements of this new ruling mandate extensive background checks be performed that include a determination as to the person's "dishonesty" and whether the individual has been convicted of possession of a controlled substance (possibly a misdemeanor).

Would the TSA please consider potentially 2 levels of background screening requirements with the more stringent to be applied to Hazardous Material items such as weapon systems, chemical and biological warfare materials, bulk fuels etc. and a less stringent screening and set of disqualifying requirements for those drivers transporting such items as aerosol containers, asbestos, lithium batteries, food coloring, cottonseed, bleach, etc.?

Given that 3.5 million HAZMAT drivers exist in the US and the above discussion, requiring all HAZMAT drivers to undergo the extensive screening described in the ruling appears excessive and cost prohibitive.

Should such a distinction be acceptable, would the TSA consider allowing an independent contractor to provide the enrollment systems for the various DMVs and to then conduct the background screening service, biometrics and photograph capture?